

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 GABORO 00698 101750Z
ACTION CU-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 USIE-00 PA-02 IO-14 /033 W
-----058970 110756Z /16

R 101640Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATEWASHDC 1767
INFO AMCONSUL CAPETOWN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS GABORONE 0698

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS USIA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SCUL SA BC
SUBJECT: REACTION TO VTR WITH DONALD WOODS ON PRESS CONFERENCE
USA

1. FOR THE RECORD AND IMPLICIT SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE
PROGRAMMING, THIS IS TO NOTE THAT AFTER FEBRUARY 27 DINNER
ATTENDED INTER ALIA BY THE FOUR TOP OFFICIALS IN PRESIDENT
KHAMA'S OFFICE AND MINEXT AFF (THREE OF THEM WITH WIVES),
I SHOWED THE VTR WITH DONALD WOODS ON PRESS CONFERENCE USA.

2. SELDOM HAVE I SEEN A MORE ATTENTIVE AUDIENCE;
THE ATMOSPHERE REMAINED HUSHED THROUGHOUT. I WOULD JUDGE
THIS ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL VTRS OF SEVERAL DOZEN USED
AT REPRESENTATIONAL FUNCTIONS IN PAST YEAR.

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3. THE PRINCIPAL REASONS FOR ITS SUCCESS, IN MY
OPINION, ARE (A) WOODS' EXTREMELY LUCID SPEECH,
FORTHRIGHT COMMENTS AND FLAWLESS DICTION; (B) THE INTEREST
IN THE MAN HIMSELF BECAUSE OF HIS ACT OF CONSCIENCE AND
IDENTIFICATION OF BATSWANA (MOST OF WHOM WERE EDUCATED
IN SOUTH AFRICA) WITH HIS EXPERIENCE OF BEING BANNED,
HIS CRITICISMS OF SOUTH AFRICAN POLICIES, ETC.; (C) THE

STRONG REINFORCEMENT BY WOODS OF WHAT PEOPLE IN BOTSWANA
LIKE TO BELIEVE, NAMELY THAT VIOLENCE IS A THREAT TO BE
AVOIDED, NOT AN INEVITABLE STAGE IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF
MAJORITY RULE IN SOUTH AFRICA; AND (D) THE RELEVANCE OF
WOODS' COMMENTS ABOUT NON-FACIALISM, POWER-SHARING, ETC.,
TO GOB SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS OF THE REGION.

4. WE HERE WOULD GREATLY BENEFIT, AND SUGGEST SAME MIGHT
BE TRUE OF OTHER POSTS OUTSIDE SOUTH AFRICA, FROM
SIMILAR VTRS/FILMS ON DONALD WOODS, AMBASSADOR ANDREW
YOUNG, OR OTHER ARTICULATE SPOKESMEN DEALING WITH KEY
AFRICAN AND SPECIFICALLY SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES.NORLAND

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NNN

Message Attributes

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